

## Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Diana Amado



Amy Stabler



Alison Miller



Caroline Lee



# Ward 6 Newsletter

## Tucson First

April 11, 2016

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### Tax Season Heads-Up

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but your taxes are due in a few days. This past week, we've received numerous calls from people who are getting threatening calls from people identifying themselves as IRS agents. The claim is that they owe back taxes and are subject to a suit if they don't offer up some information over the phone.

The IRS does a lot of things, but that's not one of them. If you suspect fraud, you should contact the Treasury Inspector General's Office. Here's a link you can use to check into what some of the tell-tale signs of fraudulent activity look like:

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>

### Broadway Widening

While some of the supporters of the 30% alignment have nuanced arguments, as I was sitting through the Broadway public hearing last week, it struck me that what we were hearing was a point-counterpoint of

**developers,**

**and the people.**





### Important Phone Numbers

**Tucson Police Department**  
911 or nonemergency: 791-4444

**Water Issues**  
791-3242/800-598-9449  
Emergency: 791-4133

**Street Maintenance**  
791-3154

**Graffiti Removal**  
792-2489

**Abandoned Shopping Carts**  
791-3171

**Neighborhood Resources**  
837-5013

**SunTran/SunLink**  
792-9222  
TDD: 628-1565

**Environmental Services**  
791-3171

**Park Wise**  
791-5071

**Planning and Development Services** 791-5550

**Pima Animal Care Center**  
724-5900

**Pima County Vector Control**  
Cockroach: 443-6501  
Mosquito: 243-7999

## Continued: A Message From Steve

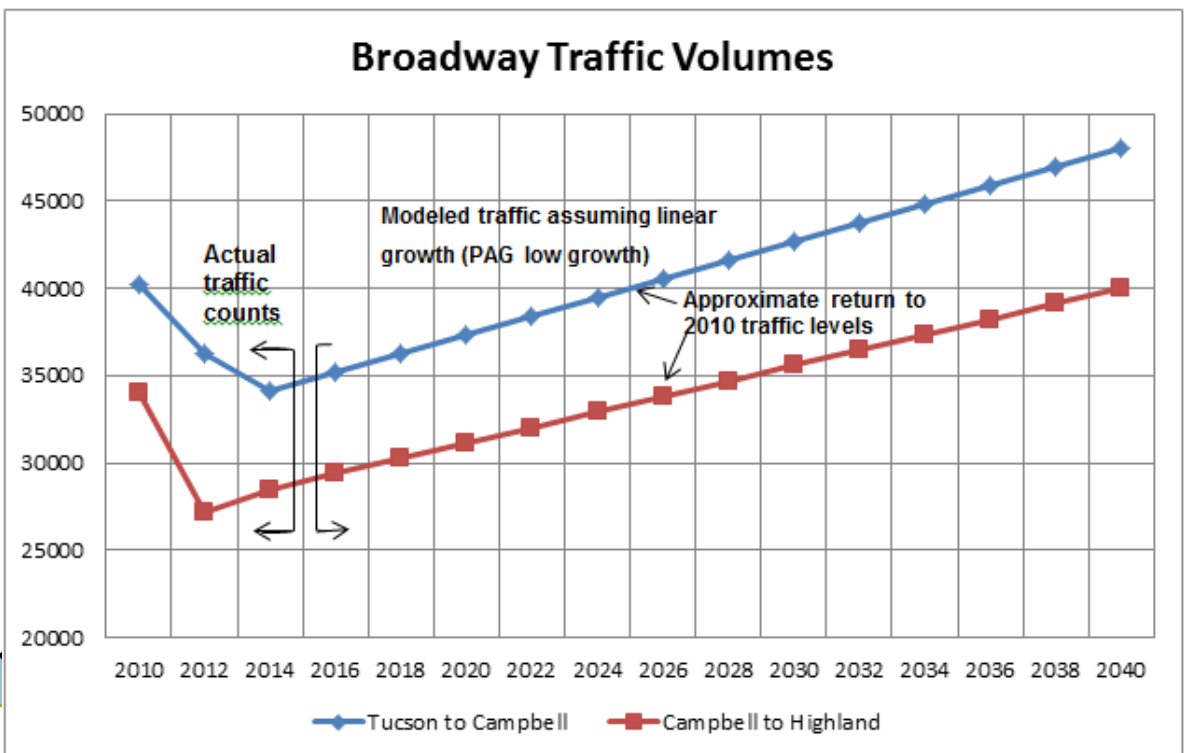
Each brought their unique – and not unsupportable – perspectives to the table. There wasn't much common ground for us to grab onto in order to come up with a compromise that'll work for everyone.

The project first came onto the public radar screen with the 1997 county bond that was adopted for Broadway enhancements. No alignment or scope for the project was identified in that \$25M commitment.

The project was refined in the 2006 RTA ½ cent sales tax vote. Broadway was one of 35 roadway projects included in the \$2.1 billion RTA voter-approved package. It's \$74M of over 2 billion dollars of projects. On the ballot, it was identified as an eight lane, 150' wide roadway, sold to the voters based on 10-year-old traffic projections that have since been debunked. Two years ago during the current design process, the RTA agreed that building what was on the ballot made no sense from the standpoint of need or cost. The argument can no longer be made that we're doing this because it's what the voters asked for.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be asked to approve funding for city real estate to begin the property acquisition process. Many business operators from along the corridor have been waiting for the taxpayers to come in and buy them out due to the impact of the project. Investments have largely been avoided as a result. It has become a self-fulfilling cause and effect; that is, you know you're a short-timer on the corridor, so why invest in the upkeep of your building when you know you'll be relocated at taxpayer expense anyway?

The RTA and County have drawn a line in the sand saying anything less than six travel lanes will 'not be funded.' Traffic projections still do not demonstrate the need for what's being proposed.



On the day the 2006 RTA measure was passed, traffic volume on this segment of Broadway was just under 45,000 trips per day. As you can see from the projected traffic volumes shown above, the eastern segment of the Broadway project won't hit those numbers again for 20 years. And the western segment, where much of the demolition's proposed, won't get there until well beyond 2040, if ever. All of the modeling shown in the Design Concept Report assumes 22% growth in auto travel. Even if that happens, in 2040 the western segment still won't be at the level of travel they were a decade ago when this was voted on.

Progressive urban planning creates destinations. The RTA/County model is to demolish existing businesses and homes and lay in new asphalt so the cars they assume will appear can move through the area more quickly. It's the tension between those models that's causing the heated debates on how this project moves ahead. That tension is being driven by the RTA/County insistence that we build what we don't need, and won't need when our unborn children are graduating from college.

#### 2015 RTA Board Members:

[City of Tucson](#) Mayor

**Jonathan Rothschild**, Chair

[Town of Marana](#) Mayor

**Ed Honea**, Vice Chair

[Town of Sahuarita](#) Mayor

**Duane Blumberg**, Second Vice Chair

[Pima County](#) Board Supervisors

**Ramón Valadez**, Member

[Pascua Yaqui Tribe](#) Vice Chairwoman

**Catalina Alvarez**, Member

[Tohono O'odham Nation](#) Chairman

**Edward Manuel**, Member

[City of South Tucson](#) Mayor

**Miguel Rojas**, Member

[Town of Oro Valley](#) Mayor

**Satish Hiremath**, Member

[Arizona State Transportation Board](#) Representative

**Mike Hammond**, Member

[Pima Association of Governments/Regional Transportation Authority](#)

**Farhad Moghimi**, Executive Director

Come out on April 19<sup>th</sup> to hear the discussion. I'm hopeful TPTB huddle up ahead of that and see they need to consider what the people have been asking for since our April 30, 2012 rally outside of the church at Campbell and Broadway – resurface the current curb-to-curb cross width, preserve the option for high capacity transit, and enhance the existing areas outside the curb lines. And have money left over for other RTA projects.

But the RTA and county are mandating what's not necessary or desired. Just because you



#### Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)  
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)  
(2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
(202) 225-2542  
Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)  
(3<sup>rd</sup> District)  
520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R)  
602-542-4331  
Tucson office:  
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild  
520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map  
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>



spend a lot of taxpayer money doesn't make it good urban planning.

I'd toss in one more group. The roadway is a part of the Rio Nuevo District. Many of the storefronts that are now covered by stucco may still have the original brick underneath. Or under the stucco could be stone, rock walls, or patterned stucco that was redone 25 years ago. The point is that of course they need a facelift – but that doesn't equate to applying eye-liner with a bulldozer.



Rio gets tax money from this area. Save the buildings that many call old and worn, get an investment influx from Rio to restore the original brick look (like what happened to Chicago Store downtown – also in the Rio District) and this area becomes what it once was – a destination, walkable, and a shopping haven. Here are some graphic examples of what's being portrayed as old and worn down buildings, but behind the stucco façade is the rich history the buildings can once again display – if the people holding the purse strings choose to allow this stretch of corridor to become the example of good urban planning the people have been asking for.



Without a vision, the people perish. Without a vision, so does this segment of Broadway.

## Residential Recycling



A huge percentage of our Environmental Services customers participate in the residential recycling program. That's the blue barrels you pull out onto the street each week. Nearly 90% of our customers take part. That's the good news.

In 2010, M&C adopted our long-term financial plan with ES. Since that time, we haven't increased residential waste or recycling costs. That's due in part to our conversion from diesel fuel to compressed natural gas (CNG), as well as the commitment we made to replacing our collection fleet periodically to reduce O&M costs. We may have to look at cost increases this fiscal year, though.

These figures show how the city's revenues from recycling have been declining:

FY 2011	\$1,897,037
FY 2012	\$1,717,517
FY 2013	\$977,540
FY 2014	\$1,002,241
FY 2015	\$683,332
FY 2016 (YTD Actual)	\$405,260

We're projecting zero in revenues during the upcoming fiscal year. The whole recycling market has been declining in value due to the low cost of oil, the strength of the dollar, and reduced demand overseas. As with the point I sometimes make about our overall budget deficit, factors outside of our control are driving the declining revenues. In the case of recyclables, we will continue to have to pay over \$200K to process the material.

In an effort to recoup those costs, plus the normal O&M we pay for running the equipment, we may be asking for a 45 cent per month surcharge on the residential collection bill. The projected yield from that is about \$767K. The plan as presented to us was to end the surcharge "when revenue for sale of recycling exceeds \$750K." I asked if the elimination of the charge could be stepped-down in increments. In fact, we will be reducing it in approximate \$250K revenue steps, which equates to about 15 cents for each \$250K increase in revenues.

Given that we haven't increased residential rates in five years and given the positive impact this program has on our environment, this increase, along with the built-in plan for eliminating it, seems like a good investment in our regional health.

We'll be holding a public hearing on this and a few other possible rate increases in May.

Another of those increases is a proposal to raise our commercial waste and recycle fees by 3%. Last year we implemented a 5% increase in those fees – the first such increase in four years. That did not result in a loss of any ES commercial customers. We'll be hearing from you on this proposal in May, also.

Right now, ES also monitors our 16 closed landfills. That work is paid for by a Groundwater Protection Fee – established in 2010, it costs the General Fund about \$180K annually.

As a part of our budget balancing discussion, we may be moving that cost over to ES, in which case it'll show up as an addition of 7 cents on your utility bill (average homeowner). We haven't made that change yet. It'll in some measure depend on our progress in getting the budget into balance without the shift.

Finally, when we moved graffiti and code enforcement from the General Fund over to ES, there was a discussion about possibly increasing the ES fees to cover that new \$3.8M in costs. At the time, I said simply cost-shifting wasn't going to work for me unless we were able to also show some value added for the new, higher rates. I haven't seen anything that would meet that yet.

I also pointed out that increasing costs to cover code enforcement is essentially charging non-violators for the behavior of people causing code enforcement activities. I've given staff a list of what other cities charge for things such as repeat violations within certain time frames and repeat inspections on violations. In comparison, we're pretty lenient. For example, we charge a reinspection fee of \$75. In Philadelphia, Scottsdale, and Mesa they charge a variety of escalating fees that in some cases go up to \$300 per trip. In addition, citations are more expensive for violators in each of those jurisdictions. Staff has the report, and before I support increasing fees for ES taking on the code enforcement function, I'll want to see that we're offsetting the proposed 67 cents per month increase by some changes in the fees we charge violators. These are essential services, paid for by people on low and fixed incomes. They shouldn't be subsidizing people who simply thumb their noses at our quality of life codes and aren't held financially accountable.

The date for the public hearing is still being finalized. Come and take part to let your voices be heard on this menu of possible new costs. At this time, I think they're a mixed bag.

#### **Tucson Water Financial Plan**

Another mixed bag is the proposal for raising water rates. We live in the desert and our water rates are extremely competitive, considering the importance of the resource to our grandkids. And we're recovering from a down economy and have to weigh the ability to pay of many of the people still having trouble making ends meet. It's a balance.

Our Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) is top notch. They study the material and I value their input. This year, they've proposed a one-year increase in rates that'd average 7% across user categories. That will bring in around \$12M new dollars. Here's a table that shows the financial impact on the average household (uses about 7-9 Ccf per month).

SMOOTHING	CCF's	FY 2017	FY 2016	Change	Percent
Winter Average	7	\$28.62	\$26.47	\$2.15	8.12%
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$32.35</b>	<b>\$29.85</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>8.38%</b>
Summer Average	9	\$36.08	\$33.22	\$2.86	8.61%

TRADITIONAL	CCF's	FY 2017	FY 2016	Change	Percent
Winter Average	7	\$28.76	\$26.47	\$2.29	8.65%
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$32.54</b>	<b>\$29.85</b>	<b>\$2.69</b>	<b>9.01%</b>
Summer Average	9	\$36.32	\$33.22	\$3.10	9.33%

The “Smoothing” example is what CWAC proposed. It spreads the rates more broadly among residential, multi-housing, commercial, and construction users. Staff has proposed the “Traditional” rates. They’ve asked for a two-year rate hike that places a bit more burden on residential users. The justification is to impose more revenue stability and to more directly send a conservation incentive to homeowners.

All things being equal, either one is justifiable given where our rates are and given the fact that we’re in a long term drought. But all things aren’t equal, as I noted, above.

Tucson Water staff has given us a good breakdown of the costs they’re funding with these proposed rate increases. Some of those are ‘non-discretionary’ costs. They include things such as debt service, salaries, payment of the administrative fee, buying our CAP allocation, and other unavoidable expenses. Together, those costs equal 5.4% of the 7% they’ve asked for. The other 1.6% is made up of important work, but functions that are not mandatory. One of the big ticket items in that list is a commitment to buy \$2M in new vehicles. That nearly totally makes up the difference between ‘non-discretionary’ and ‘other’ expenses.

In addition, we expect to get a one-time settlement this year from the Federal government for the filtration plant (AOP) we had to build as a result of pollution they created in our aquifer. That will yield us \$16M. Tucson Water has only accounted for \$4M of those new dollars in their FY’17 revenue projections. My feeling is that we can mitigate the full 7% rate increase by using some of those dollars to fill the gap, perhaps delay by another year the purchase of vehicles, and in that manner delay by another year the full 7% rate hike. It’d be a compromise that reflects the needs of many in the community who are struggling, but that also respects the need for Tucson Water to remain a strong enterprise.

We’re going to hold a public hearing on the rate increase proposals on May 17<sup>th</sup>. I’ll be interested in your input. Ahead of that, there will be three town halls presented so you can hear more detail and/or offer your thoughts.

**Apr 20 – 26:**

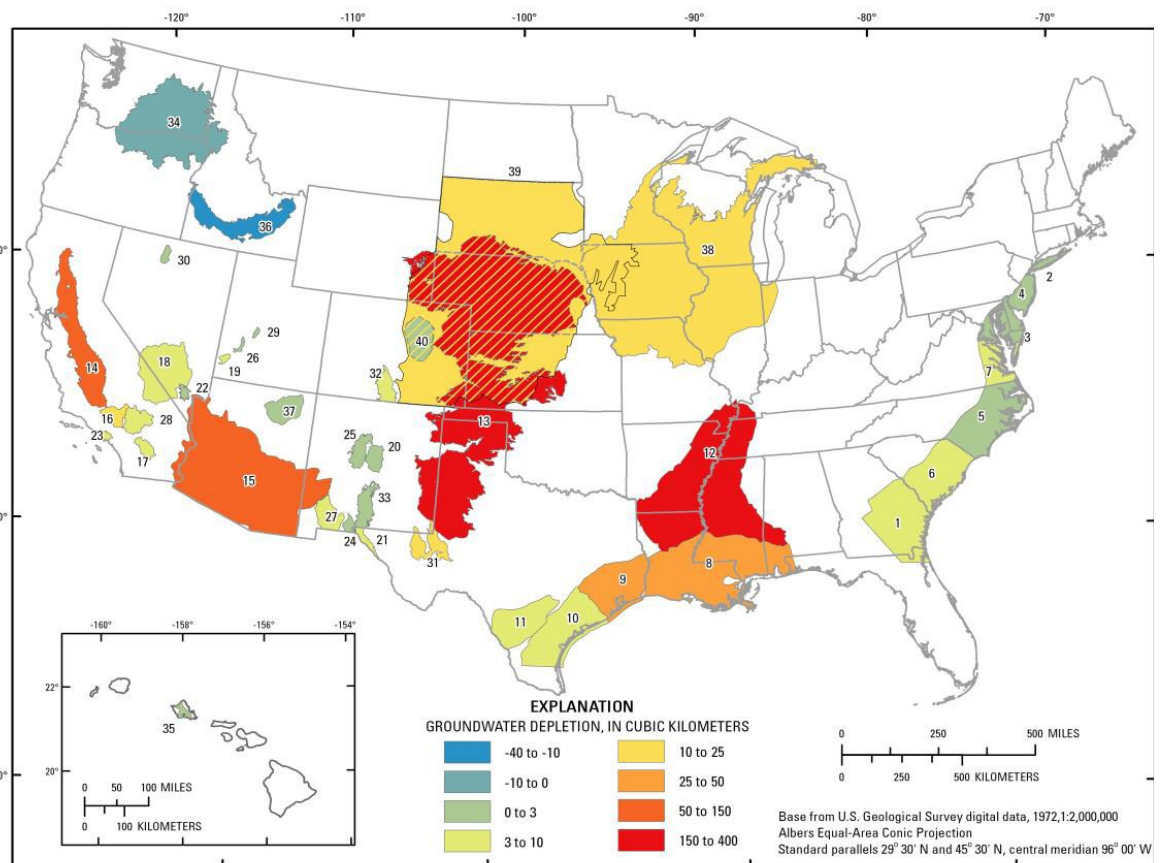
#### Town Halls

- April 20th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation Building, Mesquite Room 900 S. Randolph Way
- April 26th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Quincie Douglas Library, Large Meeting Room 1585 E. 36<sup>th</sup> St.
- April 28th, William Clements Recreation Center, Multipurpose Room 8155 E. Poinciana Drive



<b>May 17:</b>	<u>M&amp;C</u> - Rate Increase Public Hearing (ARS 9-511.01) - Adoption of Rate Increase
<b>July 5:</b>	<b>New rates take effect first week of FY- 2017</b>

I'll close this water item by sharing this map. It shows groundwater depletion between 1900 and 2008. We at the M&C have an extremely progressive water policy – fought against by some in the development community, but a responsible approach to preserving this key resource. Arizona generally is a leader in water policy, largely through the 1980 Groundwater Act. But that Act, and what we're doing in Tucson, is being placed at risk by the makeup of the Ducey Administration's Water Augmentation Council, the group framing our water policy going forward, as well as legislation that will allow cities outside of the state's Active Management Areas to opt out of their counties' requirements to demonstrate new development is supported by a 100 year water supply.



Source: Konikow, L.F., 2013, U.S. Geological Survey. Available at (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5079>).

Both the Water Augmentation Council and the pending legislation are far too important to allow to be driven by politics and money. Let your legislators know.

### More on the Budget

Last week, I spent a bit of room in the newsletter describing where our human service funding was headed. I also noted I would question the decision to eliminate funding for



the Community Food Bank and for certain of the Primavera services. On Monday night during our budget discussion, we restored about \$150K in the General Fund allocation for human services. On Tuesday night, we restored the other two programs' funding. The votes to do so were unanimous. We'll retain the allocations you saw in last week's newsletter for another year, giving time to transition to new programs that reflect emerging needs in the community – and giving agencies currently receiving funding time to plan on some level of reduction.

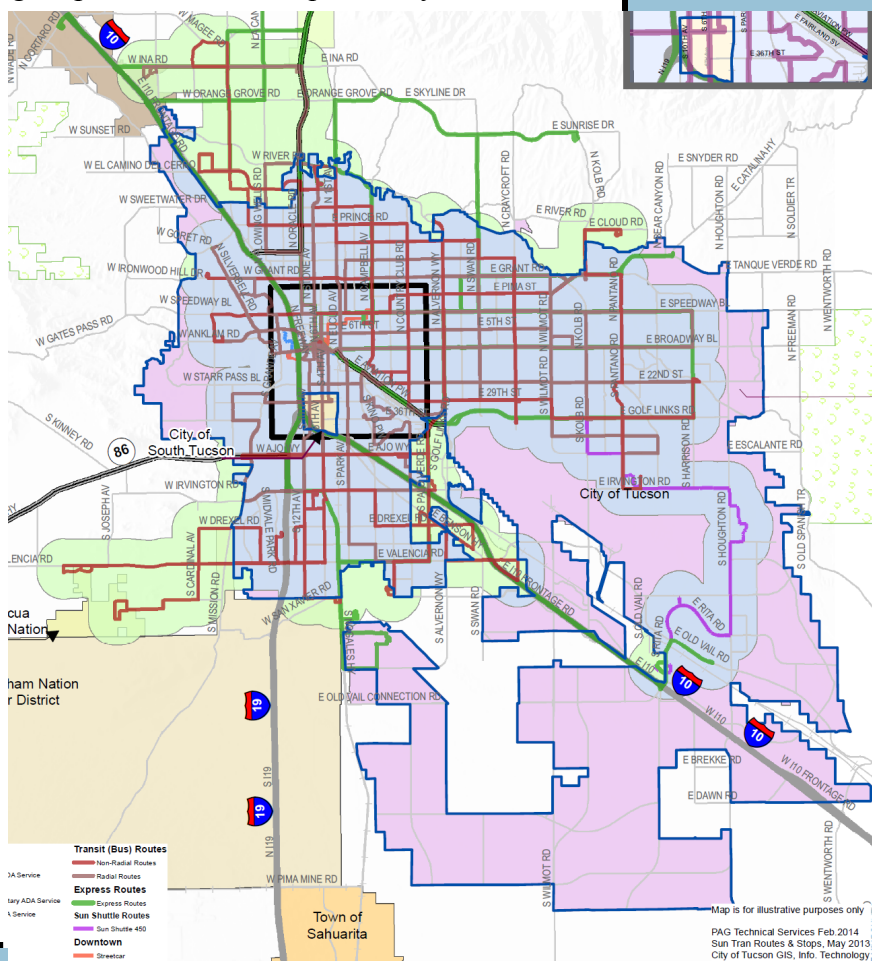
We held a three plus hour meeting last Monday night and another hour late on Tuesday to talk about bringing the budget to balance. We expect to see a recommendation from the city manager on April 19<sup>th</sup>. During our talks, we agreed on right around \$23M in further reductions. Many of them were pretty specific, being the result of some very collaborative work done by city staff. Some still only have dollar targets assigned, and we've asked staff to bring back to us some concrete ways they plan on achieving the financial goals.

One of the departments still to have the details made clear is Parks. We set a goal of \$1.6M in savings from current operations. Based on our discussions, I'm sure we won't see the zoo entry fee idea coming back to us as a General Fund source of revenues. The way Parks and Recreation gets to that target, though, is what we're going to see on or before the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Tucson Fire has a goal of \$4.8M. We talked about several options, including taking one rescue truck out of service, reclassifying several positions, and using inspectors from our Planning Department to substitute for Fire Building Inspectors. The Star quoted my statement to the Chief that he needs to assure us the changes are not going to be placing people's lives at risk – the public or our firefighters – and that he'll 'own that answer.' I trust Chief Critchley to bring back to us responsible suggestions.

Finally, we set a target without details for transit. There, the target is \$1.7M. Fare increases are not a part of that number. We've asked to be shown how the savings can be met through route efficiencies and possibly doing some of the non-mandated ADA service in ways different than we presently do.

On the map to the right, the blue outline marks our city limits. In the light blue areas, we're obligated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to provide transit to those who cannot access Sun Tran. The green areas are the same service, but in geographic areas where other jurisdictions pay. It's the pink regions on the map we're considering for changes in how we provide the service.



Right now, some other jurisdictions are using private transit companies to provide service to these ADA customers. We've asked staff to look into what savings, if any, might accompany moving in that direction. We'll know on or before the 19<sup>th</sup>. Those savings will most certainly not get us to the \$1.7M, so some other efficiencies will necessarily be a part of the transit financial reductions. As with Parks and Fire, we'll discuss the details later this month.

Finally on the budget, we made some deep cost reductions in the Police Department. However, we also rolled back some of those dollars into TPD equipment needs. Last week, the department announced it will be ordering 820 new cell phones for officers. Right now many are using their personal cell phones for business. That's not right. We owe it to them to issue a city phone so they're able to retain some level of their own privacy and still give out contact information to the public. The phones will also serve as a necessary intra-department communication tool. We were able to buy the phones for \$50 each. The department will receive a significant rebate on each phone, making the total bill right around \$80K. It's a good deal for the officers – and for the taxpayers.

We're also rolling back some of the savings so the department can buy new uniforms for our officers. They should be here before the real summer heat hits. This is another totally justifiable expenditure that M&C unanimously support.

I voted in support of the overall police budget proposal. A part of it is the expansion of our body worn camera program. As I've previously stated, I continue to have concerns over a couple of the aspects of that program. First is the issue of access to the video data that's captured. If the camera's on, I believe the public should have access to what's being recorded. That means a quick response to public records requests, and it means the officers do not have the liberty to turn the cameras off at their discretion (other than during down time, of course). There's talk of other times when they'd be off – and it's that whole unresolved question of what those instances are that makes me uncomfortable. In addition to that, I've got concerns over the cost to store, retrieve, and redact the data captured on the cameras. Those costs will only escalate over time.

Right now we only have 70 body cameras. As that number expands by a factor of 10, the costs will escalate as well. I voiced each of these sets of concerns during our Monday night meeting – and I voted in favor of the overall budget, having at least made my thoughts a part of the record. If we voted 'no' each time we had any level of objection to a budget item, we'd never get to a successful vote. Look at the Feds. They live on continuing resolutions, and the deficit just grows year after year. We don't have that option.

Lots of hard work by lots of people. We're getting close.

### **Charter Changes**

Many thanks to our Charter Review Committee (CRC) for the hard work they invested in some suggested changes to the city charter. We had a good discussion of them on Tuesday and will be holding a public hearing in April to gather your input.

The two general areas we considered taking to the ballot relate to finance and governance. Both are important, but I believe the majority sense is that we should wait on asking you

about taxes. I support that position. Let's get our fiscal house in order this budget cycle and think about capital needs that may require different funding options later. But, if we hear significantly different ideas during the public hearing, we can of course revisit that position.

The governance questions relate to how we run for office. By way of reminder, right now three council members run every four years. We qualify for the ballot by ward, and we run for election on a city-wide basis. In response to a recent lawsuit, a three judge panel of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit said that system is unconstitutional. We've appealed that decision, but so far the Court hasn't indicated whether or not it will hear our appeal. Since we have to have a legal election process in place by next year, we need to get a Charter question to the voters this November.

The CRC proposals included ward only elections, and ward only with the addition of two council members who'd run and serve on a city-wide basis. They also proposed that we un-stagger the terms of the M&C. From our discussion, I believe the unanimous sense was that if we're going to a ward only election style, having all of us run together makes sense. So unstaggering will likely be a part of whatever we take to the ballot. The M&C also appeared to favor sending a ward only question to the voters, and not the hybrid ward +2 option.

Because the Court still has to rule, asking the single question in November will bring with it a few different potential results:

If we ask ward only/unstagger and a majority of the voters approve, it won't matter what the Court decides – that would be our new form of election.

If we ask ward only/unstagger, it loses in November, and the Court upholds our present form of election, the current system would remain how we run for office.

If we ask ward only/unstagger, it loses in November, and the Court overturns our present form of election, we'd end up running in both the primary and general elections city-wide. There would still be geographic residency requirements to qualify to represent a ward (somebody living out on the east side would not be able to run for a west side primary), but the full city electorate would be able to vote in both the primary and the general.

Unstaggering our terms can also come in different forms. One would be to have those seats running in 2017 to run for two year terms – we'd become synchronized in 2019. Another would be to ask the voters to extend the terms of the three council members who just ran in 2015 for two years. In that case Wards 1, 2 and 4 would serve six year terms, Wards 3, 5 and 6 would run for four year terms in 2017 and we'd all synch up in 2021.

We want to hear from you about those possibilities about during the public hearing. If you've got thoughts and would prefer to share them ahead of that, feel free to email me and copy the City Clerk so he can get your comments into the public record. His email address is [cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov).

We hold plenty of public education forums throughout the summer to make sure the implications of whatever ends up on the ballot is clear.

### Dog-Friendly City



My sister-in-law bought a stroller for her puppy. I'm certain my bride, in her new grandma mode, was a part of that decision. At least they didn't end up with booties like this poor guy has had inflicted on him.

But, we are indeed a dog-friendly city. That was affirmed last week through a study done by SmartAsset.com. It's a financial planning website that ranked 100 major U.S. cities on six different criteria related to being 'dog-friendly.' Those included things such as our weather, dog-friendly hiking trails, dog parks, dog-friendly restaurants (Veg in a box – my Local First spotlight from a few weeks ago), and a couple of others. Tucson was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> nationally. The Bay Area was #1.

According to the Humane Society, over 43 million households have four-legged family members. It's fun to see Tucson rank so highly in terms of being a 'dog

welcoming' city. Here's a link to the full report, as well as a short video on our local dog parks:

SmartAsset: <http://bit.ly/1MVVpdS>

Learn about Tucson dog parks (video): <http://bit.ly/1NbethV>

### Dog-Unfriendly State



...and the state legislature continues to move ahead with SB 1248, the bill that will continue to allow pet stores in Arizona to sell puppies sourced from mills. The bill maintains the fiction that the USDA is a responsible party to oversee the conditions at puppy mills. They are already charged with that, and this image is pretty clear evidence that it's not working.

The bill is being pushed by the owner of the pet store in Phoenix that's suing that city over its puppy mill ordinance. Ours is framed largely around the language that appears in the one in litigation. The City of Phoenix won in the first court round, and the store owner (Frank Mineo) appealed. It looks like he realizes it's easier to convince our State Legislature that they should let him do what he does than to test his case further at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit.



And evidently, he's right.

If the Governor signs this bill, we won't move forward with our local ordinance, and this legislature and Ducey own the conditions depicted in the picture above.

### Tucson Greyhound Park – Steroids



You may recall this photo. I shared it with the state in support of a complaint registered by a local animal welfare supporter suggesting that steroids are being administered to the dogs out at Tucson Greyhound Park. It seems even the state couldn't avoid the clear evidence that at least in this one kennel, they've been administering steroids to the dogs in violation of the law.

I'll just share some of the language that appears in the recently completed investigation

of the claim:

**R19-2-308 (a)** *An owner, kennel owner, and trainer shall comply with the rules in this Article.*

The investigation indicates that the Willie Davis and the George Fune kennel did violate A.A.C.

R-19-2-311 (7). (Explanation below)

**R-19-2- 311 (7)** *A person other than a physician or veterinarian licensed by the Department shall not possess, within the grounds of a permittee, a foreign or prohibited substance, injectable vial, hypodermic needle, syringe, or any other instrument that may be used for injection, without written permission of the stewards. Possession includes, but is not limited to having the substance or instrument:*

- a. On the person;*
- b. In living or sleeping quarters;*
- c. In an assigned kennel, feed room, or other area; and*
- d. In a motor vehicle or trailer.*

This investigation found that licensees Willie Davis and kennel owner George Fune, did violate this rule. In testimony at the hearing December 23, 2015, Mr. Davis admits that he was giving the dogs in the kennel this pepperoni-like compound and in subsequent conversations and emails with a representative of the Fune kennel, the kennel representative admits it acquired the substance from a lab in Florida named Anicare. In the December 17, 2015 memo, Chief Steward Reinertson confirms that he confiscated three small pieces a pepperoni substance in a Tupperware container from the Fune kennel.

Recommendation is to commence with a hearing and assess a potential fine or suspension.

While the penalty is yet to be determined – and history shows that's commonly a slap on the wrist – it's at least good to make this public while the legislature is still considering HB 2127, the bill that will end live greyhound racing at TGP on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

I've been in contact with the state Department of Gaming to begin a dialogue about how we can partner together to ensure the dogs are adopted out properly once the bill is finally signed.

### World View Space Balloons



Last week I shared with you the full text of the letter sent to the county by the Goldwater Institute that threatens a lawsuit if the county doesn't terminate its contract with World View. The parts of the agreement in question include the county paying for the construction of the new facility shown in the image above and recouping the costs through lease payments, and the selection process

the county used in choosing the architect and general contractor.

The County Administrator shared with the Board of Supervisors a multi-paged letter that outlines his position in rebuttal of the Goldwater threats. In fairness to the county, I'll share some of the pertinent portions from that letter.

First, the issue of the county financing the construction. For clarification, "COPs" are Certificates of Participation. They're debt instruments the county can issue (so can the city) without voter approval. Here's the section of Mr. Huckelberry's letter that relates to the debt:

Goldwater's claim in the second paragraph that issuing COPs for the project "...extends repayment of existing COPs..." demonstrates a complete misunderstanding of the County's financing. The financing does not extend the payment of any previously-issued COPs. Some outstanding previously-issued COPs, which were issued to finance the County's purchase of the Bank of America Building in 2007, are being refinanced at the same time the new COPs are being issued to lower the interest rates on those existing COPs. That refinancing has nothing to do with the financing of the County's construction of County-owned facilities on County-owned land to be leased to World View; and the repayment of those existing COPs is not being extended. The ultimate maturity of the existing COPs remains the same; the County will simply pay a lower interest rate for the remaining term.

In the third paragraph of the Goldwater Institute letter, they indicate "the government must receive fair compensation in return." Our fair compensation is that World View will make lease payments in the amount of \$23,625,000 over the term of the lease. The County will receive nearly \$4.2 million in excess of the principal and interest paid by the County to retire the debt issued by the County to build the facility *that it will continue to own* until such time as World View has made all required payments. Contrary to statements made by Goldwater and others, the County is not loaning money to World View, nor is it building a facility and "giving" it to World View. It is building a County-owned facility on County-owned land that will be leased to World View.

Page 2 of the Goldwater letter states, *"World View will charge \$75,000 for balloon rides of the stratosphere—three times the average per capita income in Pima County."* They fail to state the project proposal will create over 400 jobs paying \$55,000 annually, which is 150 percent of the average annual wage in Pima County. That is the point of the project; not to create an amusement ride for Pima County residents.

So if this ends up in court, the court will have to decide whether the county lease-back agreement with World View does or does not violate the State Constitutional Gift Clause that simply says the government can't allocate taxpayer resources to benefit private interests unless it's receiving back value in excess of what the company is getting. Now you've seen both sides of that argument.

Here's a part of the letter that speaks to the research contracts World View has secured:

While near-space tourism gets all the attention, World View has executed a number of successful scientific missions where sensitive instruments that could not survive a rocket launch and major impact landing are part of the payload. Additional tests and experiments include deployment of communications and optics technology usable by the military and FEMA for tactical and emergency communications and operations; the ability to observe weather and track large-scale storms; a study of water distribution and the impacts of climate change on agriculture and population patterns; and a study to increase our understanding of the value of the stratosphere in shielding our planet from radiation. All of these important initiatives are why World View has a number of contracts with major universities, NASA and Northrup and is currently working with Raytheon on strategic alliances.

The city has agreed to extend Primary Jobs Incentive benefits to World View. I voted against it because I feel if World View has these other agreements in place, they don't need to rely on the county to take on debt to fund their facility. If the company had gone into the private market and funded their own facility, our Primary Jobs Incentive would have been a no-brainer in their favor.

And then this part of the letter:

It is clear from viewing Supervisor Ally Miller's Facebook posts regarding World View and the Goldwater Institute, together with her efforts, that the Goldwater Institute has joined forces with Supervisor Miller in her effort to defeat incumbent County Supervisors. The March 28, 2016 Goldwater letter is filled with politically charged rhetoric that has no basis in fact, exaggerates certain points, and omits most facts. It appears designed to influence the outcome of an election.

Further, the letter contains many false, misleading and libelous statements regarding the fiscal stability of World View, a privately held corporation that has previously been enormously successful in its operations, as well as financial transactions.



I don't want to get in the middle of their family feud, but if there's any level of political motive behind the Goldwater letter, it's wrong and anyone involved needs to be held accountable by the voters.



It would appear the Goldwater letter was specifically designed to derail or adversely affect the financial transactions of the County with the issuance of Series 2016B COPs. The release of Goldwater's March 28 letter was one day before the sale of COPs to finance this project and required the County to issue a revised offering statement to potential investors. Clearly, the release of the letter was timed to adversely affect the County's credit standing, interest rates and repayment schedule for the issue of this debt; and the release had its intended adverse consequence.

If the timing was set in an effort to mess with the COP sale, it'd be an interestingly hypocritical move on the part of an organization that's supposed to be standing up to protect taxpayers.

We'll see how this all plays out, but it was only fair to present both sides.



**Local First**  
**ARIZONA**

For this week's Local First I'm going to remind you of the upcoming forum we'll be holding on cross-border health care for the disabled. The

'local' touch is that it's being held at The Loft, and the program is run through a partnership with the UA Global Health Initiatives program.

If you'd like some background on the project, check out [ARSOBO.org](http://ARSOBO.org). The website really tells a great story of how students and professionals are teaming up to provide prosthetic devices, solar-powered hearing aids, and all-terrain wheelchairs to the needy in Nogales. And the items are fabricated by people who rely on similar devices themselves.



Come to the Loft on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – doors at 6pm for happy hour, followed by the presentation at 6:30pm. There's no charge for the event, but you will walk out wanting to know how you can get involved.

### **YWCA Forum**

In closing, I'm very happy to help promote the forum being sponsored by the YWCA on the intertwined topics of mass incarceration in the U.S. and how sentencing reform may be moving forward to help address the issue.

In the U.S., we sentence more people, incarcerate them longer, and have higher recidivism rates than any other major world power. To help educate people, the YWCA has presented forums over the past year on a variety of aspects of the incarceration issue: private prisons and detention of immigrants, successful reentry, the history of incarceration in the U.S., mental health in jails and prisons, and women and people of color in prisons. They will continue this series with a few more presentations.

Coming next, on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, a panel will speak on juvenile justice. They'll have Kathleen Quigley (Presiding Judge at Pima County Juvenile Court), John Schow (Director of Juvenile Court Services/Chief Probation Officer), and Tina Mattison (Deputy



Court Administrator) on the panel. It'll run from 6 to 8pm.

Later this fall there will be two more additions to this series (September 21<sup>st</sup> / Alternatives to Incarceration, and November 16<sup>th</sup> / Sentencing Policies and Reform). They'll all be from 6 to 8pm. The YWCA is located at 525 N. Bonita. You can keep track of all their activities by going to [www.ywcatucson.org](http://www.ywcatucson.org).

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6  
[Ward6@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward6@tucsonaz.gov)

## Events and Entertainment

### League of Women Voters and YWCA Offer Free Workshops

**Saturday, April 30, 2016 | 9 am – 3:30 pm**

**YWCA, 525 N Bonita Ave**

Is your organization planning to hold a candidate or issue forum this year? If so, you'll want to attend these free workshops being offered. The morning will be devoted to a PowerPoint presentation on how to plan forums, and the afternoon will be on how to moderate forums, with hands-on practice. Light refreshments provided. If you're staying for the full day, bring a bag lunch or purchase food on site. You can register for one or both workshops at the League's website at [www.lwvgt.org](http://www.lwvgt.org) or call [520-327-7652](tel:520-327-7652).

### Dine Out for Safety

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 | [www.DineOutForSafety.org](http://www.DineOutForSafety.org)**

Dine Out for Safety is a community outreach and fundraising event for Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault. Participating restaurants generously donate up to 20% of their dinner proceeds to support the mission of ending violence in our community. Local businesses will be donating prizes for a raffle to benefit the organization. Learn more and find a participating restaurant at the link above.

### Bike Fest 2016

**Through April 30, 2016 | [www.bikefesttucson.com](http://www.bikefesttucson.com)**

Bike Fest Tucson is an annual celebration of the most incredible form of human-powered transportation in the world – the bicycle! Events are scheduled throughout the month, including a bicycle scavenger hunt, the GABA bicycle swap meet, bike-in movies, and a ride with the Mayor. Visit the link above for the full calendar.

### TUSD Facilities Master Plan Open Houses

Tucson Unified School District is creating a facility master plan to identify facility improvements and funding sources needed to support their long-term strategic plan. Share your voice at one of two upcoming open houses For more information, visit [tusdfuture.org](http://tusdfuture.org).

- **Catalina High School, 3645 E Pima St | Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10 am—12 pm**
- **Pueblo High School, 3500 S 12th Ave | Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6 pm—8 pm**